

Message Text

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SUBJ: INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN VISITS KABUL

1. SUMMARY. INDIAN MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAVAN ARRIVED IN KABUL OCTOBER 28 FOR A 5-DAY VISIT TO HEAD INDIAN DELEGATION TO FOURTH SESSION OF AFGHAN-INDIAN JOINT ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COMMISSION. HE WAS GIVEN HIGH LEVEL AND WARM RECEPTION BY GOA, AND MET WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD. CHAVAN VISITED KABUL AND PROVINCIAL SITES OF INDIAN ASSISTED PROJECTS. AGREEMENT SIGNED AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT CONTINUES AND EXTENDS INDIAN HEALTH, HYDRO-ELECTRIC, AND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, AND PROVIDES FOR COOPERATION IN CREATING AFGHAN AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE. STRENGTHENING OF NON-ALIGNMENT MOVEMENT, THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, AND THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE WERE INTERNATIONAL ISSUES SINGLED OUT AS AREAS OF AFGHAN-INDIAN SIMILARITY OF VIEW. LOCAL MEDIA CARRIED NO REFERENCE TO DISCUSSIONS OF PAKISTANI OR INDIAN INTERNAL

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DEVELOPMENTS. WHILE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AGREED

UPON IS SMALL, HIGH LEVEL RECEPTION OF CHAVAN AND OBVIOUS IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO VISIT DEMONSTRATE SIGNIFICANCE AFGHANS ATTACH TO GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDIA IN DAOUD GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY AIM OF BALANCING SOVIET INFLUENCE AND FINDING SYMPATHETIC AUDIENCE FOR ITS VERSION OF AFGHAN RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. END SUMMARY.

2. INDIAN MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAVAN ARRIVED KABUL OCTOBER 28 TO HEAD INDIAN DELEGATION FOR 4TH SESSION OF AFGHAN-INDIAN JOINT ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COMMISSION. OTHER MEMBERS OF DELEGATION ARRIVED OCTOBER 24. GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) GAVE CHAVAN WARM AND HIGH LEVEL RECEPTION. THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO AFGHAN/INDIAN RELATIONS WAS UNDERSCORED BY EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE GIVEN TO 10-DAY AFGHAN/INDIAN CULTURAL SEMINAR HELD AT KABUL UNIVERSITY IN MID-OCTOBER.

3. CHAVAN MET WITH MINISTER OF PLANNING KHURRAM, WHO LED AFGHAN DELEGATION TO COMMISSION, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH, AND MINISTERS OF PUBLIC WORKS, MINES AND INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS PRESIDENT DAOUD AND HIS BROTHER AND FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR NAIM. MUCH OF 5-DAY VISIT WAS SPENT VISITING INDIAN ASSISTED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: AN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND THE CHILD HEALTH INSTITUTE IN KABUL, AND DURING SHORT VISIT TO BAMIAN, SITE OF A MICRO HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT AND AN INDIAN RESTORATION PROJECT FOR THE TWO MASSIVE BUDDHA STATUES.

4. THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED NOVEMBER 1ST (TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE) EXTENDS FOR TWO YEARS INDIAN TECHNICAL AND HEALTH ASSISTANCE TO THE CHILD HEALTH INSTITUTE; PROVIDES FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATES IN PROVINCIAL CAPITALS AS WELL AS FOR COMPLETION OF THE KABUL COMPLEX; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECURES INDIAN SUPPORT IN CONSTRUCTION OF MICRO HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECTS; AND ENLISTS INDIA COOPERATION IN THE CREATION OF AN AFGHAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

5. IN AFGHAN MEDIA TREATMENT OF VISIT AND IN PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN ON NOVEMBER 1 THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT, THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC

ORDER, AND THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE
WERE SINGLED OUT BY CHAVAN AS TOPICS ON WHICH HE
FOUND AFGHAN LEADERS WERE IN AGREEMENT. WHILE
EMPHASIZING THE RIGHT OF POOR NATIONS TO A MORE
EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM, CHAVAN
SPOKE OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL
SESSION AS PROVING
"THAT INSTEAD OF CONFRONTATION, EMPHASIS WILL
HAVE TO BE ON COOPERATION". WHILE PRESS REPORTS
STATE THAT REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS WERE DISCUSSED
BY CHAVAN AND DAOUD, NO PUBLIC MENTION OF PAKISTAN
WAS MADE. NOR WAS THERE ANY MENTION IN AFGHAN
MEDIA OF "PRESIDENT DAOUD'S APPRECIATION OF THE
STEPS BEING TAKEN IN INDIA IN THE WAKE OF THE
EMERGENCY" SUCH AS CARRIED IN FBIS REPORT OF
DELHI DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH 0830 GMT
30 OCTOBER.

6. COMMENT: CLOSE RELATIONS WITH INDIA HAS BEEN
A MAJOR COMPONENT TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF DAOUD
GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY GOAL OF BALANCING SOVIET
INFLUENCE AND OBTAINING A SYMPATHETIC HEARING FOR
THE AFGHAN VERSION OF ITS DIFFERENCES WITH PAKISTAN.
THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE SMALLNESS OF THE ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM AGREED UPON TO THE RANK OF
THE INDIAN DELEGATION AND THE HIGH-LEVEL AFGHAN
RECEPTION DEMONSTRATES THE CONTINUED IMPORTANCE
BOTH SIDES ATTACH TO VISIBLE GOOD RELATIONS.
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